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Urban District of Thurnscoe.




ANNUAL

HEALTH REPORT

FOR 1925.

MEXBOROUGH.

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SWINTON ROAD



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1925.

SUMMARY OF REPORT.

Population—1901	2366
1911	4076
1921	4981
1925 (Registrar-General's figure)	7477
(Own estimate)	9320
Height above Sea Level	120 to 300 feet.
Number of Inhabited Houses	1695
Number per House...	5.5
Number of Families in Rooms (approximate)	180
Rateable Value—	
Poor Rate	£33177 17 6
General District Rate	28541 15 11
Produce of Penny Rate	136 5 1

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate—

On Registrar-General's Figure	32.5 per 1000.
On own estimate	25 per 1000.

Death Rate—

On Registrar-General's Figure	13.2 per 1000.
On own estimate	10.72 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality Rate	98.7 per 1000 births.
Respiratory Rate	4.6 per 1000.
Tuberculosis Rate	.75 per 1000.
Zymotic Rate	.1 per 1000.

Scavenging	By Council's Own Workmen.
Number of Houses erected during the year	126.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thurnscoe Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1925, together with the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

In the first place, this Report is in the nature of a Survey Report, dealing with

(a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health; and

(b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, viz., Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage, Scavenging, and Food Inspections.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.—In 1921, the district under your administration consisted of a valley running almost due east and west, bounded on the north and south by slightly rising ground. The height above sea-level varies from 120 to 300 feet. The elevated portion on the north side has gradually been developed for building purposes until the district is almost equally divided into a newer part on the rising ground and an older part lying in the valley.

The general flatness of the entire district has been somewhat of a handicap in dealing with the water supply and the sewage disposal system.

The only industry in the district is coal-mining.

Population.—According to the Census of 1921, the population was 4981.

In 1922 a census was taken, and this gave a population of 6739.

In 1923 our own estimate brought the figure up to 7500.

There was little increase in 1924, but by the end of 1925 the population had risen very considerably. In fact, if we take the number of houses, 1695, and multiply that by 5.5, a figure fairly representing the number per house, taking into

consideration the considerable number of houses containing two families, and also making allowance for lodgers, we get a population in the neighbourhood of 9320. During the past five years, therefore, the population has nearly doubled itself.

Housing.—This great increase in the population during the past five years has necessarily meant a great activity in housing.

In 1920 a Housing Scheme was put into operation by the Council and also by the Industrial Housing Association. At the outset these schemes did not proceed very quickly, owing to the difficulty in obtaining material and also to labour difficulties. By the end of the year, however, 328 houses had been erected and tenanted. Slow progress was made in the following two years. Things became livelier, however, in 1924 and 1925, the Housing Association having erected a considerable number in Thurnscoe East on the north side. By the end of the year the number of houses in the district had risen to 1695.

A further scheme for nearly 700 houses, part by the Council and part by the Housing Association, was initiated at the end of the year, and steady progress is being made.

Water Supply.—For many years the district derived its water from Barnsley, through Hemsworth. The average daily consumption was 9.6 gallons per head per day. This supply in 1921 and 1922 became inadequate and intermittent, due, not only to our own extra requirements, but also to the larger demands occasioned by the rapid development of Hemsworth. Negotiations were entered into for a larger and more constant supply, and since Hemsworth could not guarantee a more satisfactory service because of her own increased requirements, negotiations were entered into with the Barnsley Corporation for a direct supply. These negotiations were brought to a satisfactory conclusion in 1922, and we have now an adequate and constant supply of excellent water throughout the entire district.

The existing reservoir was found to be inadequate, and a new reservoir capable of holding 600,000 gallons was erected on somewhat higher ground in 1925.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The sewerage works were found to be inadequate to deal with the increased sewage of the district, and a new scheme, which included the relaying of the larger main sewers throughout the district was begun in 1925. The works are of the most up-to-date kind, and are nearing completion.

Conversion of Privy Middens.—Having obtained an adequate water supply, and with an efficient sewage disposal scheme in sight, it was felt that the time was ripe for making a start with the conversion of the privy middens attached to the older houses into a water conservancy system. A scheme was evolved whereby the property owners were financially assisted by the Council.

There were about 620 conversions to be made, and the work is going on steadily. The scheme was commenced in 1924, and by the end of 1925, 184 had been converted and four abolished. Along with the actual conversion, the existing ashpits are abolished and dustbins provided.

Scavenging.—This is done by the Council's own workmen, under the organisation and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The cleansing of the ashpits is done on four nights each week, the average interval being 17.57 days.

Dustbin refuse is collected once a week, the whole of the refuse being disposed of by tipping. The present tips are nearly exhausted, and provision will have to be made in the near future for new tips, or, what would be better, the erection of a destructor.

Inspections.—The sanitary inspection of the district is carried out systematically and thoroughly by the Sanitary Inspector. A detailed report of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances found, and the action taken, will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.—At the present moment there is only one school in the district—the Council School. This is much too small for the needs of the district. Extra accommodation is found in the Parish Hall and St. Hilda's Sunday School room. A new school is in course of erection at Thurnscoe East, and this will, it is hoped, meet the requirements of the district.

The schools have been visited on several occasions and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops.—There are five workshops in the district. These have been inspected on three separate occasions and found to be in all respects satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—There are three in the district, and all are of a satisfactory nature.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General gives the following statistics for the year:

Population.—7477.

Births.—118 males, including 2 illegitimate; 125 females, including 1 illegitimate.

Deaths.—57 males, 43 females.

Deaths under 1 year.—18 males, including 1 illegitimate; 6 females, including 1 illegitimate.

My own estimate of the population is at a somewhat higher figure than that given by the Registrar-General, based on the number of houses in the district. The total number of houses in the district is 1695. Taking 5.5 as representing the number of persons in a house—a fair figure considering the number of houses having two families and also allowing for lodgers, I estimate the population at 9320.

Birth Rate.—118 males and 125 females—a total of 243, as compared with 278 in 1924.

On a population of 9320 this gives a Birth Rate of 25 per thousand, as compared with 18.3 per 1000 for England and Wales.

Taking the Registrar-General's figure of 7477, the Birth Rate would be 32.5 per 1000.

Death Rate.—57 males and 43 females—a total of 100, as compared with 65 in 1924.

On a population of 9320 this gives a Death Rate of 10.72 per 1000, as compared with 12.2 for England and Wales.

Taking the Registrar-General's figure of 7477, the rate would be 13.2 per 1000.

Causes of Death.—

Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	5
Influenza	1
Tuberculosis	7
Cancer... ..	11
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3
Heart Disease	3
Arterio Sclerosis	2
Bronchitis	9
Pneumonia	28
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Diarrhœa	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Congenital Births	10
Deaths from Violence	3
Other defined diseases... ..	14

Looking through this list, it will be noticed that respiratory diseases, including Tuberculosis, account for 50 deaths. It has occurred to me that a great amount of respiratory trouble could be avoided, especially amongst the male population. The nature of the work, of course, is a contributory cause. The majority of the men work in very warm places, and do not take the precaution of adding extra clothing when they leave the mine. This factor in itself is to my mind a strong plea for the establishment of pit-head baths. The men would have time to cool down, and would necessarily put on dry warm clothing.

The next cause of death that calls for comment is cancer. This disease is universally on the increase, and is certainly on the increase in this area. Eleven deaths were due to this disease.

Infant Mortality. — Twenty-four children died before reaching the age of one year—18 males and 6 females. This gives an infant mortality rate of 98.7 per 1000 births—a great increase on previous years, viz.: 64.7 in 1924, 51.8 in 1923, and slightly higher than the figure—92.1—for England and Wales. We have to go back to 1920 for so high a rate.

Nearly half of these babies were born prematurely and could not be expected to survive, in fact, they only lived for a few days. The other cases succumbed to respiratory diseases, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, diseases that babies do not stand well.

Infectious Diseases.—Your district continues to be wonderfully free from Zymotic Diseases.

Of the notifiable infectious diseases there were 9 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Diphtheria, and 2 Cases of Erysipelas. Forty-nine cases of Pneumonia came under observation.

With the exception of the 2 cases of Erysipelas and Pneumonia cases, all the other cases were speedily removed to the Isolation Hospital and the houses disinfected immediately after removal.

Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Chicken-pox were responsible for a good deal of sickness. Five deaths resulted from Whooping Cough and its complications, Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	9	1
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	49	—	26
Other diseases generally notifiable	—	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.—At the end of the year 69 cases of Tuberculosis—Pulmonary and General—were on the register. Sixty-one of these were Pulmonary and 8 were General—glands, bones, and joints. Many of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis should now be removed, as they were put on because they were of a suspicious nature. If the register were purged of these cases, which have proved by lapse of time not to have developed the disease, the total number in the district would not amount to thirty.

Seven new cases came under observation during the year, and there were 6 deaths. Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are referred to the Dispensary, and most receive sanatorium treatment. The non-pulmonary cases, being for the most part surgical cases, are treated on surgical lines, either at home or at Mexborough Hospital. Artificial sunlight is being tried on these cases, but it is too early yet to hazard an opinion on its efficiency.

Age. Period.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pul.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	3	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—
20	1	—	1	—
25	—	—	—	—
30	1	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	1	—
55	—	—	—	—
65 & upwds	—	—	—	—

Venereal Diseases.—There are not many cases of these diseases in the district. When a case does come under observation it is at once sent to Doncaster Infirmary for treatment, as this is our nearest centre.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—A Centre provided by the County Authority is established at St. Helen's Sunday School. It is open every Monday at 3 p.m., and is very well attended, the average attendance being about 40. For the convenience of those residing at Thurnscoe East, I should like to see another centre opened there, as it is too far for the mothers and babies to come, especially if the weather is at all inclement. I am convinced it would be well attended. The centre is not only of value in looking after the babies, but advice is freely given to expectant and nursing mothers. Breast-feeding is encouraged as much as possible, but when this fails dried milk is provided at a reasonable price.

No case of maternal mortality occurred during the year. Eleven still-births were recorded.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonotorum.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of the Council, the Sanitary Inspector, and the Clerk, for the very valuable assistance they have given me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. MALCOLM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report FOR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thurnscoe Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year 1925.

NUISANCES.

Nuisances reported in 1925	182
Nuisances outstanding end of 1924	33
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Total number of nuisances needing abatement	215
Nuisances abated during 1925... ..	196
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Nuisances outstanding end of 1925	19
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The following summary shows the nuisances abated and the defects remedied in connection with dwelling-houses during the year as the result of action under the Public Health Acts:—

Houses —	Roofs repaired	12
	Eaves gutters repaired	4
	Ceilings repaired	4
	Internal walls repaired	7
	Floors repaired	4
	Ranges and fireplaces repaired, etc.	7
	Setpots repaired or renewed	3
	Sinks repaired	4
	Sash cords renewed	1
	Fall pipe repaired	1
	Fall pipes disconnected	6
	Sufficient water supply provided	12
	Cleansed	1
Drains —	Drains opened and cleansed	27
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	33
	Waste pipes repaired	33
	Waste pipes cleansed	1
	Inspection chamber provided	4
	Inspection chamber reconstructed	1
	Inspection chamber cover renewed	1
	Soil pipe repaired	1

Closets —Water-closets opened and cleansed	3
Water-closets cisterns repaired	5
Water-closets provided	2
Urinal provided	1
Urinal repaired	1
Ashbins —Ashbins renewed	23
Ashpits abolished	1
Yards —Yard paving renewed	1
Accumulations —Accumulations of refuse removed	3
Water in cellars	4
Sewage in cellars	19
Keeping of Animals —Poultry straying into common yard	1

With the exception of 12 cases, in which Statutory Notices were served, the whole of the above matters were dealt with after informal notice by letter.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Type of Closet.	Number	Percentages.		
		1925	1924	1923
Water-closets	1261	74.2	62.0	54.8
Waste Water-closets	8	0.5	0.9	1.0
Privy middens	439	25.3	37.1	44.2

The above Table shows the numbers and proportions of the various types of sanitary conveniences in use in the District at the end of 1925, together with the proportions for the two previous years. During the year 6 waste-water closets were converted into water-closets and ashbins provided in lieu of the existing dry ashpit. Practically the whole of the houses on the water-carriage system are provided with dustbins.

DISINFECTION.

Four premises were disinfected during the year after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 6 private slaughterhouses in the district, used by 8 retail butchers. The following defects were dealt with during the year:—

Absence of covered offal bin	3
Absence of cover to offal bin	1
Defective yard paving and drain	1
Offensive smell from chimney	1

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered for destruction or seized during the year:—

	1 Carcase and offal—Tuberculosis.
	1 Tongue—Tuberculosis.
	1 Udder—Tuberculosis.
	1 Offal and fat—Tuberculosis.
	7 Beasts' lungs—Tuberculosis.
	1 Beast's lung—Flukes.
	19 Beasts' livers—Flukes.
	1 Beast's liver—Tuberculosis.
	3 St. Mackerel—Unsound.
...	2 St. Finnan Haddock—Unsound.
	44 Rabbits—Unsound.

The putting into operation of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, has certainly facilitated the inspection of meat, but although the slaughterhouses are visited regularly during killing hours, it is only possible for a proportion of the carcases to be inspected, and these usually only after dressing. The Council have no power to regulate hours of slaughter, and consequently butchers are killing in different slaughterhouses at the same time. Although this power would be useful, there would be practical difficulties in its application, and in my opinion the only really effective step is the provision of a public abattoir.

In regard to the Regulations generally, the butchers' shops in the district are all provided with glass windows, and market stalls are required to have a canvas or other suitable screen on three sides of the stall. The sale of meat from stalls in open markets, however, is very unsatisfactory, and it would be preferable if it were prohibited.

A number of pigs have been slaughtered on unlicensed premises and their carcases inspected. Due notice of slaughter was given in each case.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Nine samples of milk were taken during the year under the County Council scheme, whereby they pay the cost of analysis and conduct any necessary legal proceedings.

One sample was found to be adulterated, containing 1.4 % added water, and the vendor was cautioned.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 8 cowsheds in the district, and with one exception the standard of cleanliness is fair. It would be desirable.

however, if more attention were given to the grooming of the cows. The farmers do not give sufficient attention to cleanliness of method, the milk business being treated more or less as a side-line. If strict cleanliness and attention to detail are observed, clean milk can be produced in spite of structural defects in cowsheds. Clean hands, clean stools, clean overalls, clean beasts, clean vessels, and a clean shed, are all essentials if the milk produced is to be above suspicion.

At one farm an outside dairy has been erected for the storage of milk and utensils, and at another better provision has been made, although the milk store is still inside the house.

Six retail purveyors of milk have been added to the register during the year, making a total of 20 registered. Of these, 5 are also cowkeepers, and 10 have premises outside the district.

PRIVY CONVERSION SCHEME.

The scheme commenced in 1924 has been proceeded with systematically during the past year.

155 Privies were dealt with, 151 being converted and 4 abolished. One additional water-closet was provided.

The total number of privies converted into water-closets is 184, two of these having been done voluntarily without contribution.

The cost of the 182 conversions and one additional water-closet carried out under the scheme, as shown by the lowest tenders, was £2144 2s. 11d., or £11 14s. 4d. per closet; the contribution of the Council being £896 12s. 6d., or £4 18s. 6d. per closet. The work in each case included the abolition of the ashpit and the provision of dustbins.

SCAVENGING.

Collection.—The cleansing of privies is carried out by one carter and one filler, and the time occupied on this work has been reduced during the year from six to four nights per week.

The average interval between cleansings has been 17.57 days, and the longest 21 days in three winter months. A further reduction to three working nights per week has been made this year.

The collection of dustbin refuse is carried out weekly, and the large increase in the number of bins has necessitated more time being allotted to this work.

The following table shows the number of loads and the proportion of refuse collected during the year; comparative figures for 1924 are also given:—

Type of Receptacle.	Loads collected.		Percentages.	
	1925	1924	1925	1924
Privy Midden.. ..	1409	1600	41.6	50.3
Dustbin	1869	1487	55.1	46.8
Ashpit	113	91	3.3	2.9
Totals	3391	3178	100.0	100.0

The amount of dry refuse collected gives an average of 1.77 loads per house per annum, and the amount of nightsoil an average of 2.60 loads per house per annum, a slight reduction on the figures for the previous year.

Where dustbins have been found to be defective, intimation has been given to owners that suitable bins might be obtained through the Council on prepayment of the cost; 37 bins have been supplied during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping.

The following statement shows the number of loads deposited on the several tips during the year; total figures for 1924 are also added:—

Place.	Dry Refuse.	Wet Refuse.	Total.	Total 1924
Sewage Works	17	475	492	1675
Southfield Lane	1442	934	2376	450
Industrial Housing Assoc. Site	164	—	164	1053
Council Depot	359	—	359	—
Totals	1982	1409	3391	3178

Costs, 1925:

Collection :	£	s.	d.	
Privies	449	8	0	17s. 0.3d. per house per year.
Dustbins & Ashpits	437	0	0	7s. 9.8d. „ „
	886	8	0	10s. 9.5d. „ „
				5s. 2.7 per load.
Disposal	31	5	1	2.2d „
Total Cost ..	£917	13	1	

Comparative Costs.

Year.	Collection.				Disposal Coll. & Dispsl		
	Total Cost.	Per 1000 houses.	Per 1000 Pop.	Rate. in £	Total. Cost.	Rate. in £	Pro- portion of G.D. Rate
1925	£886	£539	£110	6.20d	£31	6.42d.	7.64%
1924	£895	£608	£122	7.52d	£24	7.70d.	9.17%

HOUSING.

126 New Houses have been erected during the year, making the total number of houses in the district 1695. The houses in the district, excluding about 40, are all modern, or fairly modern, having been built within the last thirty years. The Industrial Housing Association are proceeding with the erection of a further 437 houses in Thurnscoe East, and the Council are building a further 125 on the Clayton Lane site.

Number of Houses erected during year:—

(a) Total	126
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme (including P.U.S. Scheme)	113
1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.—Inspection.	
(1) Dwellings inspected under Housing and Public Health Acts	159
(2) Inspections recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regs. 1910	12
(3) Number of dwellings found to be unfit for habitation	—
(4) Number of other dwellings found not in all respects reasonably fit	159
2. Defects remedied without service of formal notice	174
3. Action under Statutory Powers:	
(a) Section 28, Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919:	
(1) Notices served for repairs	—
(2) Number of dwellings rendered fit	—
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notice was served requiring remedy of defects	2

(2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18, Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	—

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health, and to the other officials for the courtesy and assistance extended to me during the year.

F. C. BROOKES.

Sanitary Inspector.

April 15th, 1926.

